

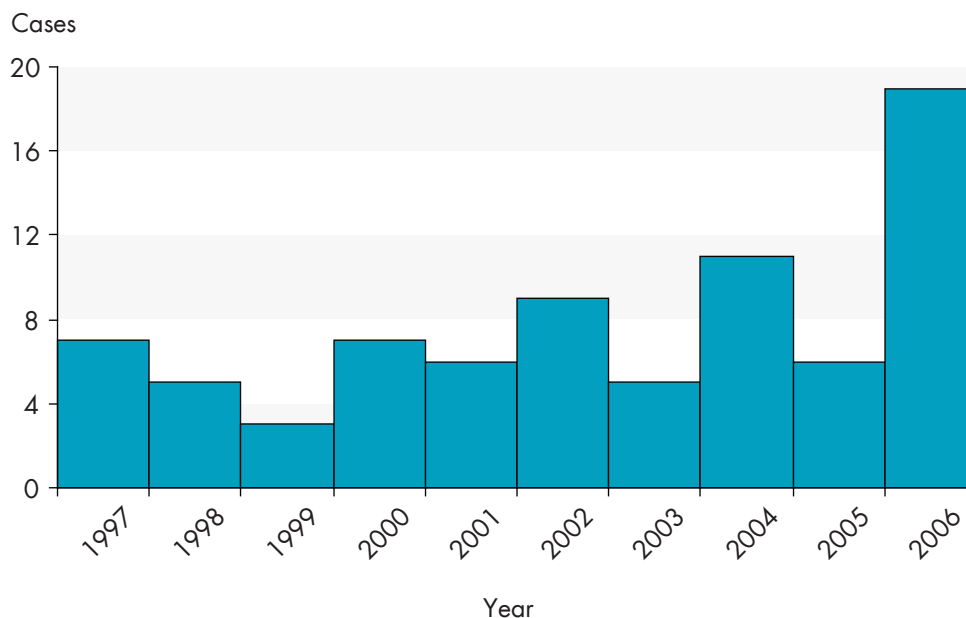
## Vibriosis

Vibriosis means infection with any of several kinds of bacteria in the *Vibrio* genus. The hallmarks of most *Vibrio* infections are watery diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever. Some species (e.g., *V. vulnificus*) can cause severe sepsis and skin infections. *Vibrio* spp. are common in coastal marine waters and may be concentrated by filter-feeding shellfish. Cholera is another kind of *Vibrio* infection, although fortunately one reported only rarely in the United States nowadays.

In Oregon, almost all *Vibrio* infections are caused by *V. parahaemolyticus* and acquired by eating raw oysters. *V. parahaemolyticus* occurs naturally in the Pacific Northwest, and levels rise with water temperature in the summer months. Hundreds of persons are sickened every summer, although only a minority of infections are diagnosed and reported. Case reporting is essential to the identification of contaminated shellfish beds and removal of these shellfish from the raw seafood market. Non-cholera *Vibrio* infections became reportable in Oregon in 1998.

In 2006, 19 vibriosis cases were identified in Oregon, including nine presumptive cases associated with a multi-state outbreak linked to ingestion of raw oysters. Most cases were males (63%) between 20–55 years old. Statistics on coincident beer consumption were not collected.

*Vibrio parahaemolyticus* by year - Oregon, 1998–2006



*V. parahaemolyticus* by onset month - Oregon, 2006

